

# Shelby County Office of Preparedness eNews

July 2017



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**Director Lane's Message: Accreditation is a Team Effort!**



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) has achieved national accreditation status from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). At the ceremony held in the Emergency Operations Center Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell said, "Thank you for your work! We are so proud of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness and their excellence in dealing with hazards. We appreciate their willingness to strive for the highest standards." Mayor Luttrell

welcomed Tennessee Emergency Management Agency Director Patrick Sheehan; Tennessee Homeland Security Assistant Commissioner Rick Shipkowski; EMAP Commissioner Judd Freed and dignitaries to honor SCOP Director Dale Lane and his staff.

TEMA Director Sheehan added, "It takes people of great courage and integrity to strive to be the best. This process requires an agency to open their books, expose their policies and procedures, and have them examined. Be proud of your hard work!"



Director Lane thanked all the partner agencies and declared the accreditation a "team effort." He also expressed gratitude to his staff. Lane presented them with a plaque of appreciation. They are: Levell Blanchard, Deputy Administrator; Mike Brazzell, Preparedness Officer / Procurement; Gene Jones, Preparedness Officer / CERT; Patrina Chambers, Grants Coordinator; Jesse Gammel, Preparedness Officer / GIS; Shelby Logan, Procurement / Reserve Coordinator; Joe Ruff, Special Assistant Critical Threats; and Kimberlyn Boulter, Accreditation Manager. Boulter was praised for her "diligence, leadership, and expertise" during the accreditation process. She was presented with a proclamation from Mayor Luttrell. Boulter also received a TEMA coin from Director Sheehan inscribed with the words, "Failure is not an option." Through the process, Director Lane encouraged his staff to "go for the belt!" To his delight, he was given a "belt" certificate from his staff.

EMAP accreditation requires compliance of 64 standards proving excellence in planning, resource management, training, corrective actions, communications, and warnings. SCOP is one of only three Tennessee agencies to achieve this distinction.

**Captions: Top:** Mayor Luttrell's welcome. **Bottom:** Director Lane, Director Sheehan, THLS Assistant Commissioner Skipkowsky, Shelby County CAO Harvey Kennedy, EMAP Commissioner Freed.

## Storm Victim Receives Unexpected Help



The Chris Edwards family in Frayser got some unexpected help after the May 27 wind and power outage disaster. The Edwards family did not have insurance nor the funds to remove large trees on their property. But help appeared after they reached out to Oak Grove Church. The church's pastor, Donald Johnson, in turn called Steve Shular, Shelby County Mayor's Action Center Director, who then called Woodland Tree Service. Soon crews from Woodland's began removing the downed trees to help the Edwards family begin to rebuild. During the debris removal, on scene to offer support was the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Staff and Steve Shular, from the

Shelby County Mayor's Office.

Thank you to CW 30's Mike Matthews and Tish Clark for bringing this story to the public.

**Captions:** Left: Woodland's Tree Service removing debris. Photo by Steve Shular, Shelby County Public Affairs Director.

## Shelby County Debris Removal Deadline

Tuesday, August 15, at 5:00 p.m. is the last day for Memorial Day Weekend storm debris to be picked up in unincorporated Shelby County. The Public Works Department will pick up tree limbs no longer than eight feet in length placed at the curb. Trees and limbs cut by contractors, household trash, and construction debris are not included in this storm debris removal effort.



For more information, please contact the Shelby County Roads and Bridges Department at 901.222.7705.

## MLGW Mobile App



Memphis Light, Gas and Water offers a free mobile app for customers. The app lets you view utility bill amounts owned, sign up for text alerts, find payment locations, read MLGW news, learn new energy tips, have the contact information for the emergency hotline, phone numbers where to report outages, and have access to the mobile outage map.

For more information or to download the MLGW app for iPhone, iPad and for Android devices, please visit: <http://www.mlgw.com/home/apps>

## Extreme Weather in 3D!

The Pink Palace Family of Museums is showing “Extreme Weather” in the CIT 3D Giant Theatre. Researchers study the effects of global climate change on weather such as melting glaciers, tornadoes, extreme heat, and wildfires. Information from these experts will help citizens prepare for extreme weather events. For times and admission prices visit <http://www.memphismuseums.org/cti-giant-3d-theater/>.



To view the National Geographic Extreme Weather introduction video, please visit: <https://youtu.be/yrOYxLt9SCI>

## Memphis / Shelby County Recovery Initiative



Emergency Management is a rotating cycle of five missions.... prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Shelby County is now in the recovery stage of the May 27 wind and outage disaster. To ensure these storm victims (and all future disaster victims) receive the care and resources they need, a new task force, the Memphis/Shelby County Recovery Initiative, was created. The group met for the first time in July to share information on how to best coordinate the needs of disaster victims utilizing the resources of various agencies.

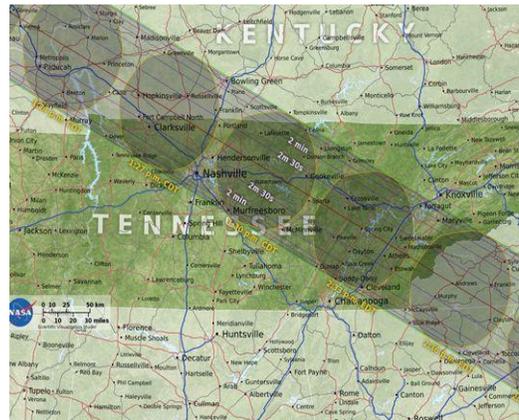
According to Kimberlyn Bouler, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness Planner, the group includes volunteer organizations, faith-based groups, state and local government agencies, Shelby County leaders, and private partners. The function of the group is to ensure specific needs are met in the areas of case management, financial, volunteer management, construction management, emotional & spiritual care, and leadership. The long-term focus is for all recovery partners to stay connected for a strong and rapid response and recovery in the future.

## UASI Partner: 45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee WMD Civil Support Team

At the recent Urban Area Security Initiative meeting, Levell Blanchard, SCOP Deputy Administrator, introduced a new partner agency to the group. Members of the 45<sup>th</sup> (Tennessee) Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team. The 45<sup>th</sup> is part of the Tennessee National Guard and offers support to civil authorities to supplement state and federal efforts during catastrophic events. While they are not first responders, but are ready for rapid deployment within 90 minutes to assist 24/7 providing special technical support in the form of equipment and manpower to the incident commander. For more information, please contact the Shelby County Office of Preparedness at 901.222.6700.

## Great American Eclipse / Solar Eclipse over Tennessee!

On August 21, one of nature's grand displays, a rare total solar eclipse will cross the United States from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic. The first time the United States experienced a total solar eclipse was June 8, 1918 and the most recent was 1991. During a total solar eclipse, the moon, sun and earth will align as the moon passes between the earth and the sun. Depending on your location, daylight becomes deep twilight. In Tennessee, the closest place to Memphis to see this event will be over Nashville (at 1:27 p.m. for one minute and 57 seconds).



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness offers these safety tips:

- **NEVER look directly at the sun during an eclipse.** The only safe way to observe an uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through **solar filtered glasses that meet international standards.** Follow manufactures' instructions and supervise children using solar glasses.
- **Stand still and observe through solar glasses.** Do not look at the sun through regular sunglasses, a camera, telescope, binoculars or any other device (unless it has a solar filter fitted for it). If you are in the path of totality, you can safely remove your solar filter glasses when the moon completely covers the sun and it is dark. As the sun reappears, put your solar glasses back on. If you normally wear eye glasses, keep them on and place your filtered glasses over them.
- **Anticipate large crowds and traffic delays** if you drive to a location in its path.
- **Be mindful of your personal safety** while in a large crowd and don't be distracted by the event. Have a exit in mind and practice your escape ahead of time.

The next two solar eclipses to pass over the United States will be April 2024 and August 2045. For more information, please visit: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) and <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>.

## Outreach: Macedonia Youth Schools in Session



Hundreds of excited school families flooded the campus of the Macadonia Missionary Baptist Church at 1814 Fields Road on July 29 for the "Schools in Session" event. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness was on hand to give out pencils, coloring books, FEMA literature bags, emergency phone number magnets, and earthquake posters. Also attending this fun event were Shelby County Schools, Southwest Community College, and other organizations.

**Caption:** Excited Macedonia school children show off their new "Drop, Cover and Hold" earthquake posters.

## Outreach: East of Old Brownsville Neighborhood Association



Enjoying a beautiful Saturday afternoon on July 29, several Shelby County agencies were delighted to attend the East of Old Brownsville Neighborhood Association gathering. The event offered citizens information about crime prevention, disaster preparedness, blight prevention, and code



enforcement. Sharing food and fellowship with the citizens were the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, the Shelby County Fire Department, and the Shelby County Public Affairs Office.

**Captions: Left:** Staff from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness and the Shelby County Fire Department meets citizens. **Right:** Citizens enjoy the food and fellowship at the East of Old Brownsville event. Photos by Steve Shular, Shelby County Public Affairs Director.

## Outreach: Multicultural “Back to School” Event



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness was honored to participate in the annual Multicultural Health Fair and “Back to School” event at Mercadito de Memphis on July 30. Ivette Baldizon, Director of the Shelby County Office of Multicultural Affairs, Radio Ambianta, and Amigos Foundation sponsored this festive and well-attended



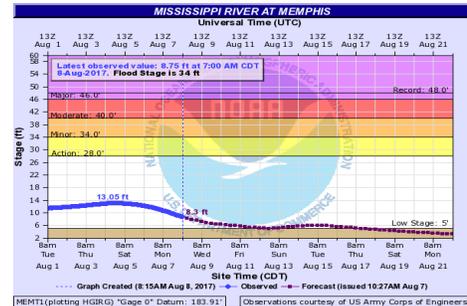
event. Families picked up preparedness information in Spanish and English, pencils, coloring books and emergency phone number magnets from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness. Families were offered free school supplies, books, IDs, and backpacks. Many took advantage of the free health screenings, while others enjoyed the fun activities (a rope pull, bull riding, face painting, and hitting a piñata). Also attending: Shelby County Schools, Shelby County Health Department, Shelby County Election Commission, Las Americas, VIDA +, Corner Park Apartments, Callas Foundation, Foundation Amigos, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Comcast, the Exchange Club, the Step Foundation, and the Home Depot. Over 1,500 citizens attended.

**Captions: Left:** Children pick up pencils, coloring books, and Spanish FEMA brochures. **Right:** Organizer Ivette Baldizon (center) advises parents on school issues at the event.

## Mississippi River at Memphis



The Mississippi River at Memphis measured 8.75 feet on August 8 according to the National Weather Service (NWS) Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service.



Minor flood stage is 34 feet. For the latest river level, please visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).

**Captions:** Left: Mississippi River at Memphis at Tom Lee Park, Downtown Memphis, August 8, 2017. Right: NWS river graph.

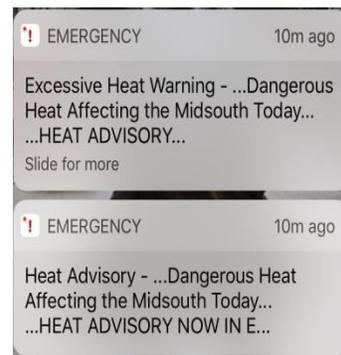
## (Free) Preparedness Training!

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness invites you to learn how to prepare for the unexpected. The next public Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will be held on September 16 and 23 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register, please visit [www.staysafeshelby.us](http://www.staysafeshelby.us).

## Significant Weather / Outages:

**National Weather Service 7-Day Hazardous Weather Outlook:** Today and tonight no hazardous weather is expected at this time. Wednesday through Monday, the probability for widespread hazardous weather is low.

- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** July 1, July 4, and July 8
- **Flash Flood Warning:** July 14 and July 15
- **Excessive Heat Advisory:** July 19 - July 27. On July 24 a cooling center was open at the Benjamin Hooks Library.
- **Excessive Heat Warning:** July 23 and July 26. On July 23 over 4,700 customers were without power. Trees and powerlines down.
- **Urban /Small Stream Flood Advisory:** July 28.



**Tropical Activity /Atlantic Ocean.** No named hurricanes in the Atlantic. According to the NOAA National Hurricane Center, Tropical Storm Franklin has formed 230 miles of Belize City and 250 miles from Chetumal Mexico. For more information visit [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

## Amateur “Ham” Radio:

- **Ham Radio Technician (beginner) Class:** August 17 – September 28, Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. FREE. Email [Jelly@germantown-tn.gov](mailto:Jelly@germantown-tn.gov) to register.
- **Ham Radio Check-In:** SCOPERNET on Mondays, 6:00 p.m., 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2.

## Emergency Operations Center Activation (EOC) Status: August 8

The **Shelby County Office of Preparedness** and the **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency** are at Level 5, Normal Operations.



**Flag Status:** Full staff.

## Shelby County Office of Preparedness: [www.staysafeshelby.us](http://www.staysafeshelby.us)

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- **Storm Shelter Registry:** Email [kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountytn.gov](mailto:kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountytn.gov)
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- **CERT:** Visit [www.staysafeshelby.us](http://www.staysafeshelby.us) to register.